



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Pittsburgh District

Headwaters

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Headwaters Update is a monthly publication aimed at providing timely information to Pittsburgh District personnel and their families. It will augment the quarterly *Headwaters Highlights* where issues will be discussed in greater depth. Both are produced by the Pittsburgh District Public Affairs Office. Questions, comments and input are welcome.

Editor: Liane Freedman, 412-395-7502.

Personnel Notes

Promotions: Lenna Hawkins, PM; Ross King, IM; Dilip Kothari, PM; Michael Rattay, PM; Sandra Spence, OR

New Hires: Todd Kingston, IM; Brian Luprek, EC; Amy Martin, EC
Reassignments: David Maset, OR; Alan Nogy, OR; James Rockovich, OR

Retirements/Resignations:

Izaddin Aziz, EC; Edward Churma, EC; Michael Dillon, OR; Donald Gerst, OR; John Goga, OR; Mignon Maher, DE-S; Richard Maher, RM; William Salesky, EC; Scott Smiley, PM; Linda Stafford, EC

Transfer: Swanzeller Wilkerson, CPAC

On A Personal Note:

Get Well Wishes to Ralph Shannon, Conemaugh.

Condolences to Craig Cicconi, whose mother passed away Jan. 27; to Kyran Mangold, Lock 2, Mon, whose brother, Leo passed away Jan 20; to Robert Anderson, Hildebrand, whose father, Earl L. Anderson passed away Jan 16; to Fred Balasko, Morgantown, whose father John Balasko Jr passed away Jan 15; to Dean Neff and family; his wife passed away Nov. 29.

Team Spirit Awards: Pat Remaly, Norma Alsina, Pam Fisher, Barbara Schlessman and Virginia Walsh for their organization of the 2002 toy/book drive for the children of the Haulapai and Seneca nations.



Safety Tip: Be heart healthy and back friendly while shoveling snow this winter

Lock Operator's Heroic Actions Save Deckhand

By Liane Freedman, editor

Braving ice and the torrent of the mighty Ohio that early January day, district lock operator Thomas Johnston single-handedly plucked a young deck-hand from the river's clutches, saving his life.

It began as a typical winter's day; the river was high and running fast and wild. The M.V. Howard S. Guttman, a 20-barge tow, was struggling to maintain control while heading for Dashields Locks. A young deck-hand named Shawn Bako stood on one of the star-board lead barges, line in hand, preparing for the lockage.

The tow barreled in . . . 400-feet 'til the lock gates. But it was going too fast for him to throw the line. He realized he was in trouble.

The towboat captain tried to slow down his vessel, but the wild river proved too formidable. "He was backing hard in an attempt to stop the tow," said Russ Moore, lockmaster.

Now only two things could happen -- either the barges would smash into the dam or they would crash into the lock gates.

Shawn jumped from one barge to the next toward the lock wall knowing if he was knocked



Johnston receives a hearty handshake and district coin from Col Scrocco for his heroic deeds.

overboard he would at least have a slim chance of survival. There would be a ladder and Corps personnel to come to his rescue. If he had gone the other way, he would have been swept over the dam to certain death.

The Dashields lock crew -- George L. Sopko, lead lock operator, Thomas Johnston and Edward J. Schrock -- were in the process of preparing the chamber for the Guttman.

Johnston, manning the upper guide wall, saw what was unfolding and told Shawn to lay down or hold on. The barges hit the middle lock wall, the two starboard front barges broke apart, their metal

lines snapping and flying through the air.

The barge that Shawn was on flew skyward hurling its passenger into the frigid abyss. Shawn floated into the middle lock chamber. "I heard him screaming," said Johnston.

Shawn desperately swam for the chamber's ladder. Cold and exhausted, he managed to climb half way up before Johnston grabbed his coat and yanked him onto the lock wall . . . just as the up-turned barge that had thrown him into the cold, murky water plummeted back down.

"Shawn said that he didn't think he could have cleared the ladder before the barge swung back down and contacted the middle wall, which would have most likely resulted in broken legs . . . or worse," said Moore

"It's something you just do," said Johnston of saving Shawn.

On Jan. 10, Col. Scrocco presented Johnston, Sopko and Schrock with district coins for their heroic actions on Jan. 2.

A week later Johnston reported that Shawn was back on the Guttman's deck, line in hand, preparing to lock through.



SUCCESSES:

- Click on the *Commander's Corner* Intranet web page.
- Annual Engineer Day Celebration/ Castle Co-op Picnic set for Friday, June 27 at Kennywood Park.
- Took part in Lewis & Clark news conference at Heinz History Center.

➤ History Channel's *Modern Marvels* series will air the Dam 2 story March 18.

CHALLENGES:

- A few challenges remain:
- Implications of ongoing war on terrorism and national economy on the District's FY03/04 Command Operating Budget.

AND FINALLY:

- Command Climate Survey February 3-14.
- Happy Valentine's Day

A monthly roundup of significant successes and challenges from the office of the District Engineer, Col. Raymond Scrocco.

Love is in the air



On the Back Porch

New Look for District Internet Homepage

The district's Internet home-page has been redesigned. "It's just the first step of many to redesign the entire site," said Dave Schwab, webmaster.

The web address (URL) has remained the same and you can access the page via the Intranet or by clicking www.lrp.usace.army.mil. "This page is best viewed at a resolution of 1024 x 768," said Schwab.

Newman's Own Competition...

Volunteer community organizations have until April 30 to enter the fourth annual *Newman's Own Award for Military Community Excellence* competition for a share of \$50,000 in grants. For specific eligibility and entry rules, go to www.fisherhouse.org or call (888) 294-8560.

How Are We Doing???

The Public Affairs Office is always looking for feedback and comments. We'd like to hear from you about this publication, *Headwaters Update*, and/or the quarterly *Headwaters Highlights*, or any other communications product.

One reader last month wrote us: "Just wanted to let you know that I thought the *Update* this month looked really nice....best yet "

Now it's your turn. Tell us what you think. Ideas for stories and articles are especially welcome, and can be addressed to: Editor, *Headwaters Highlights*, Room 1801 or email Liane Freedman.

Weight Loss Challenge

See Fed Bldg Health Unit for details. What have you got to lose?

Leadership Challenges Same for Corps, Industry

By Don Fogel, LDP Team

The LDP team in January visited Pressely Ridge School, a non-profit organization serving troubled youth and children with special needs and their families. LDP members met the school's senior leaders, including Deputy Director George Pashel.

Pashel started his professional career as a mechanical engineer, earned a masters degree in environmental engineering before obtaining a MBA and moving into management as CFO of Pressely Ridge.

Many of the leadership challenges faced by the Corps today are very much the same as those faced by private industry including recruiting and retaining qualified individuals, growing the company and creating a synergism to achieve a common corporate

goal. The leadership practices that the LDP team has studied over the past 6 months were in use at this school.

The LDP classroom session addressed *Leadership Maturity*, facilitated by The Smart Work Company. We studied Howard Gardner's *Multiple Intelligences* and examined these capacities in terms of personal leadership strengths and abilities. It was an eye-opening experience for everyone and made us truly examine our brain's creative/ artistic side.

LDP is an all-encompassing training forum that helps us to better understand ourselves, our co-workers and, hopefully, those that we may someday have the opportunity to lead.

Commander Opens New Forum on Intranet

Col. Scrocco has initiated a new web page on the Pittsburgh District Intranet called *Commander's Corner*. The commander will use this forum to provide information concerning the district's goals, objectives, priorities and answers to employees' concerns and suggestions.

Currently, all district employees can now see Col Scrocco's past and present TAPES objectives and report card, his top 10 initiatives and questions and answers from his focus sessions with randomly selected employees.

The link to this web page can be found directly from our Intranet's main page at:

<https://intranet.lrp.usace.army.mil/>.

Please refer back to this site frequently to view changes and additions.

Credit for NAF Work

If you ever worked in a commissary, military club or bowling alley on a military installation the chances are you were employed as a Non-Appropriated Fund employee. The FY02 National Defense Authorization Act changes how this period of work is credited under CSRS and FERS.

If you think you might be eligible contact CPAC.



Contracting with Small Business is Good Business

By Janet Laukaitis

promotes jobs."

To learn more about Pittsburgh District's Small Business Program contact Deputy for Small Business, Janet Laukaitis at 412-395-7476.

New Holding Period for Savings Bonds

The Department of Treasury recently announced that the minimum holding period for Series EE and I bonds has been increased from 6 to 12 months as of Feb. 1, 2003. This means those who purchase



savings bonds on or after Feb. 1 must wait one year before they can redeem them. www.savingsbonds.gov.









